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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Holidays

Partial holiday for Muslims for Gyarween-Shareef.

572 *Q.*—Mr. K. P. V. S. MUHAMMAD MEERA RAVUTTAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have investigated the question of granting a partial holiday for Muslim public servants for Gyarween-Shareef, i.e., the 11th day of Rabi Ussani in accordance with the assurance given by the hon. Member in reply to a resolution on the subject moved by Mr. Syed Ibrahim, on 27th February 1928;

(*b*) if so, what is the result of that investigation; and

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to declare it as a partial holiday?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The enquiry has elicited the suggestion that a holiday for Muhammadans only on the eleventh day of Rabi Ussani should be substituted for the second holiday for Bakrid at present given for Muhammadans only. This suggestion is under consideration.

Irrigation

Maintenance of the road from the Vennar Regulator and Pandavayar Head to Kalathoor.

573 *Q.*—Mr. U. RAMASWAMI AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is a dispute between the Nannilam Taluk Board and the Public Works Department regarding the payment of maintenance charges by the former to the latter for the road leading from the Vennar Regulator and Pandavayar Head to the village of Kalathoor No. 205, Nannilam taluk, Tanjore district;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the road has been blocked by the Public Works Department for the past 15 days and that the people of the surrounding villages are put to a great deal of inconvenience in this cultivation season;

(*c*) whether the Government are not armed with any other power to settle the dispute; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to open the road at once?

A.—The Government have called for a report.

Land Revenue

Confidential records in the Revenue Department.

574 *Q.*—Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUL WAHAB SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how are confidential notes against the staff maintained in the Revenue Department;

(*b*) whether the party concerned is given an opportunity to explain matters before a note is made in the confidential records against him;

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(c) whether the party concerned is furnished with a copy of such confidential notes;

(d) whether the party concerned is given opportunities to know his faults and mend his conduct;

(e) if not, whether the Government will be pleased in the interests of justice and fair play to consider the desirability of obtaining the explanation of the party concerned before making a note of the same in the confidential register and furnishing him with a copy just as is done in the Postal and Telegraph Departments?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to Board's Standing Order No. 132 which contains detailed instructions on the subject.

Legislative

Exemption of M.L.C.'s from postage rates.

575 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what action has been taken on the suggestions made during the debate on the motion for the reduction of the allotment for 'Supplies and Services—Legislative bodies' on 19th March 1928 with a view of securing to M.L.C.'s the privilege of being exempted from postal rates in their correspondence in connexion with their functions as M.L.C.'s?

A.—The House Committee has been requested to consider and advise on the suggestions regarding postal concessions to Members of the Legislative Council.

Minor Irrigation

Failure of crop under the Badvel tank in the Cuddapah district.

576 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the failure of crops for a number of years during recent times, under the Badvel tank in the Cuddapah district owing to short supply of water; and

(b) whether the Government have investigated the possibility of supplying water to the above tank by a channel from the Sagileru river and with what result?

A.—(a) In the last fifteen years, there have been three years (namely, faslis 1323, 1333 and 1336) when supplies in this tank were seriously short

(b) Yes. The scheme was abandoned as it was found that it would not pay even its working expenses.

Labour

District Labour officers to be directly controlled by the Labour Commissioner.

577 Q.—Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to place the District Labour officers under the direct control of the Commissioner of Labour?

A.—No.

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Civil Justice

Memorial from copyists in Judicial service.

578 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorial from the copyists in the Judicial service about their pay and pension; and

(*b*) whether the Government are prepared to redress the long standing grievances of the said copyists, increase their pay and make their service pensionable?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government have considered the question and have decided that no increase in the pay of copyists is necessary and that their services need not be made pensionable.

Education

Alleged arrears of grants to J. K. Middle School, Penukonda.

579 Q.—Mr. J. BHEEMAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the teaching grants due to the J. K. Middle School, Penukonda, West Godavari, are in arrears for some years;

(*b*) if so, why; and

(*c*) when the grants in arrears will be paid?

A.—The Government have no information. They will call for it.

Local Boards

Nominations to the Palghat and Ponnani taluk boards.

580 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the persons nominated to the taluk boards of Palghat and Ponnani during the last one year; and

(*b*) the principles followed by the District Board President in making such nominations?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

Nomination of ex-military officers to municipalities and local boards.

581 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: With reference to the answer to question No. 419 answered on 27th August 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of military Indian officers that have been nominated to the municipalities and local boards throughout the presidency since August 1927?

A.—Appointments of members of taluk and union boards are made by Presidents of district boards and Presidents of taluk boards, respectively. The Government have therefore no information as to the number of Indian military officers appointed to taluk and union boards. Appointments of municipal councillors and district

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board members are made by Government and the hon. Member should have been able to obtain the information he requires from Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette* which is supplied to all Members of the Legislative Council. An Indian military officer was appointed last year to the Trichinopoly Municipal Council.

Medical

Employment of trained midwives in rural dispensaries.

582 Q. – Mr. V. Kameswara Rao Nayudu : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many rural dispensaries now exist ;

(*b*) in how many of them trained midwives are employed by the medical officers ; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take steps to have more midwives employed by increasing the necessary allowance ?

A.—(*a*) There were 319 in existence on the 30th April 1928. No later information is available.

(*b*) Information is not available and has been called for.

(*c*) The Government have under consideration the question of increasing the subsidy given to midwives in rural dispensaries.

[For further list of unstarred question, see page 503 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Economic condition

Market rates of provisions published in the district gazettes.

*583 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the publication of prevailing market rates for provisions every month in district gazettes is meant merely for the information of the public or for any other purpose ;

(*b*) whether the Government rely on these figures as a correct basis for revising rates of assessment at the time of resettlement ;

(*c*) on whose information these prices are quoted and what safeguards are taken to vouchsafe the accuracy of such report ;

(*d*) whether the public are entitled to question the accuracy of such figures and get them corrected ;

(*e*) before whom and in what manner such complaints are considered ; and

(*f*) whether it is a fact that in civil courts the Gazette rates are not taken as binding on parties unless both parties agree to abide by them ?

A.—(*a*) The publication is intended to supply useful information both to the public and the officers of the Government.

(*b*) They are taken as affording data for comparison.

(*c*) The Taluk Sarishtadar or the Taluk head accountant in the Tahsildars' offices and the Head clerks in the Deputy Tahsildars' offices are responsible for the figures, and they have to